

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 146770

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. DAHOMEY PLUNGED INTO POLITICAL CRISIS

EMBASSY COTONOU REPORTS THAT DAHOMEY HAS BEEN PLUNGED INTO A POLITICAL CRISIS FOLLOWING THE MURDER OF INTERIOR MINISTER AIKPE JUNE 20, AFTER HE WAS ALLEGEDLY FOUND IN BED WITH PRESIDENT KEREKOU'S WIFE.

--ON JUNE 21, MOBS RAMPAGED IN COTONOU AND CALLED FOR THE RESIGNATION AND EXECUTION OF KEREKOU, WHO IS NOW DISCREDITED AND LOATHED BY THE POPULACE.

--IN RESPONSE, KEREKOU APPOINTED MARXIST-LENINIST MINISTER OF IDEOLOGY AZONHIHO AS THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR, WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT HE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY USE FORCE TO SUBJUGATE THE POPULATION.

THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT WITH THE REMOVAL OF AIKPE, AZON-
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HIHO IS INDISPUTEDLY THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN DAHOMEY. HE

CAN NOW BE EXPECTED TO ELIMINATE KEREKOU TO ACHIEVE SUPREME
POWER. (CONFIDENTIAL) COTONOU 862, 6/22. KISSINGER

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